

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for providing status information from a mobile unit, comprising the steps of:

5 comparing, at a mobile unit, current status data with the last broadcast status data;

determining a broadcast status criteria wherein the broadcast status criteria includes a plurality of predetermined criteria;

transmitting the current status databased upon the broadcast status criteria;

10 receiving the current status data at a host system;

storing the current status data;

receiving a request for the status information;

retrieving the current status data from storage on the host system; and

providing the status information based upon the stored current status data.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if an external power source is currently connected to the intelligent mobile unit.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if an external sensor has changed status.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if the mobile unit has entered or exited a predetermined geographical zone.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if the mobile unit has triggered a preset alarm.

25 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining if the mobile unit has triggered a predetermined alarm includes determining if the mobile unit has exceeded a predetermined speed limit.

30 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining if the mobile unit has triggered a predetermined alarm includes determining if the mobile unit has exited a geographically defined zone.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining if the mobile unit has triggered a predetermined alarm includes determining if the mobile unit has moved during a predetermined time period.

9. A system for providing status information from a mobile unit, comprising:
an all-inclusive container with a connector for an external power source and at least one
connector for external sensor signals;

an internal power supply chargeable by the external power source;

an internal global positioning receiver connected to the internal power supply;
an internal processor coupled to the global positioning receiver wherein the
processor transmits current status data based upon a broadcast status criteria;

internal memory coupled to the processor wherein the memory stores the
broadcast status criteria;

an internal radio modem coupled to the processor; and

an internal antenna coupled to the radio modem.

10. A system for providing status information from a mobile unit, comprising:
an all-inclusive container with a connector for an external power source;
an internal power supply chargeable by the external power source;
an internal global positioning receiver connected to the internal power supply;
an internal processor coupled to the global positioning receiver wherein the
processor determines a broadcast criteria based upon if external power is available;

internal memory coupled to the processor wherein the memory stores the
broadcast criteria;

an internal radio modem coupled to the processor; and

an internal antenna coupled to the radio modem.

11. A system for providing status information from an intelligent mobile unit, comprising:

an all-in-one box mobile unit comprising:

a container with an external power source connection and at least one external

sensor signal connection comprising:

an internal power supply chargeable by the external power source;

an internal global positioning receiver connected to the internal power supply;

an internal processor coupled to the global positioning receiver wherein the processor transmits current status data based upon a broadcast status criteria;

internal memory coupled to the processor wherein the memory stores the broadcast status criteria;

an internal radio modem coupled to the processor; and

an internal antenna coupled to the radio modem;

a wireless network wherein the wireless network receives wireless data packets transmitted from the radio modem;

a host system that receives data packets from the wireless network and stores the data packet information on a storage mechanism;

a global computer network for delivering a status request to the host system wherein the global computer network delivers the status information based upon the stored data packet information.

12. A system for providing status information from a mobile unit, comprising:

a mobile unit containing a radio modem, a global position receiver, and a processor wherein the processor causes a transmission if a broadcast criteria has been satisfied, the broadcast criteria includes a plurality of criterions;

a wireless network wherein the wireless network receives wireless data packets transmitted from a radio modem within the mobile unit;

a global computer network for delivering a status request to a host system;

the host system that receives data packets from the wireless network, stores the data packet information on a storage mechanism, and provides the status information from the stored information at the host system.

13. A method for providing status information from a mobile unit, comprising the steps of:

comparing, at the mobile unit, current status data with last broadcast status data;

determining a broadcast criteria wherein the broadcast criteria includes a plurality of predetermined criterions of which one criterion is whether external power is available to the mobile unit;

transmitting the current status databased upon the broadcast status criteria;

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if an external sensor has changed status.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if the mobile unit has entered or exited a predetermined geographical zone.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining the broadcast criteria includes determining if the mobile unit has triggered a preset alarm.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of determining if the mobile unit has triggered a predetermined alarm includes determining if the mobile unit has exceeded a predetermined speed limit.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining if the mobile unit has triggered a predetermined alarm includes determining if the mobile unit has exited a geographically defined zone.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining if the mobile unit has triggered a predetermined alarm includes determining if the mobile unit has moved during a predetermined time period.